

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-6, 9-12, 16-17, 22-25, 27, 37, 39, 45, 51-54, 56, and 71-84 were pending. Claims 5-6, 16-17, 25, 27, 37, 39, 45, and 51-53 have been cancelled. Claims 85-87 have been added. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 9-12, 22-24, 54, 56, and 71-87 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter and Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 54, 56 and 71-84 are allowed. Claims 6, 17, and 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition to the above allowable subject matter, claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,097,435 (“Stanger”). Claims 25, 37, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,303 (“Rowan”). Claims 51-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,914,941 (“Moshe”). Further, claims 5, 9-11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stanger, in view of Moshe. Finally, claims 27 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowan. While Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, Applicant has amended the claims to include the identified allowable subject matter in order to facilitate rapid allowance of the present application. Applicant will pursue cancelled and or other subject matter in a continuation application.

In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the features of prior claims 5 and 6. Claim 12 has been amended to include the features of prior claims 16 and 17. New claim 87 has been added and includes the features of prior claim 22, rewritten in independent form including all the features of base claim 12.

In view of the above, Applicant believes all claims to be in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe otherwise, the below signed representative requests a telephone interview at (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a resolution.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5957-41000/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

/Rory D. Rankin/

Rory D. Rankin

Reg. No. 47,884

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin,
Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: December 1, 2006